

## At Christian Life Commission Seminar

World hunger is a multi-faceted issue. Arthur Simon told a national seminar on moral concerns in Jackson.

Many factors — such as energy and population — bear on the problems of hunger, and have a bad effect on the poor, Simon told the participants in the March 21-23 seminar sponsored by the Christian Life Commission, national social concerns agency of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"I'm inclined to think that when we waste energy — and we are a wastrel society — that it has a bad effect on the poor," Simon says. "We are ready to criticize the poor people in the undeveloped nations for overpopulation,

but our energy growth rate is much higher than their population growth. That puts quite a squeeze on people," he says.

Simon, executive director of Bread for the World, a national Christian organization seeking solutions to world hunger, described the dimensions of hunger by saying, "Hunger has many faces; it is tiny dying children. It is the grief of their parents."

Simon said statistics of hunger are things he couldn't fathom emotionally until he began to imagine his children as victims.

"Then it began to tear at my guts," he said.

"Hunger," he added, is "above all and

## Simon Calls Hunger Pub

pre-eminently a public policy issue and unless we come to terms with the way that public policy affects hunger people, we will not reduce hunger."

He urged his audience to give an offering ... not an offering of money, but an offering of yourself to help bring about public policies that are more responsive to hungry people."

He mentioned specifically efforts to bring about legislation on food reserves, and work to bring about equitable food stamp legislation.

Of food reserves, he noted all nations of the world agreed that such a reserve — really a network of coordinated international reserves — is essential to world food security.

"Yet so far we've done nothing but talk about it, and we've not even done much of that. Without an adequate program of reserves, we are gambling away the future of millions of people."

"They may be statistics, but each one of them is dear to the heart of God, dear enough for God to offer His only begotten son for them."

Of food stamps, Simon noted whatever food bill emerges from Congress will directly affect the diets of millions of hungry people in this country ... and have more effect on their diets than all the voluntary programs of all the churches combined."

In addition to asking participation in affecting public policy, Simon also

asked participants to give an offering to world hunger relief through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

According to the Foreign Mission Board's Eugene Grubbs, Southern Baptists in the past three years have contributed \$3.5 million to world hunger alleviation.

In addition, he said, some 43 missionaries serving overseas are involved in agricultural work.

"We are trying to move more and more into developmental work, and long-range planning as well as continue our disaster relief," said Grubbs, director of hunger relief and disaster response for the Richmond, Va. —

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world agency.

In addition to giving, Simon also made five other suggestions about what individuals can do about world hunger:

— "Examine buying habits; consume less and share more;

— "Become better informed about world hunger;

— "Discuss the topic in family groups;

— "Find out where hungry people are in areas where you live, and join others in helping, and

— "Above all, be an advocate for the hungry, and help persuade decision makers to reach for a more just world."

## Religious Leaders Ask For U. S. Food Program

WASHINGTON (BP) — Thirty-five nationally prominent religious leaders issued an appeal to Congress and the President which calls for the establishment of a U.S. food reserve program as part of an international network of reserves.

The appeal, issued by Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders, is sponsored by Bread for the World, a Christian citizens' movement organizing national support for a food reserve program.

Among those issuing the appeal were Evangelist Billy Graham, James S. Rausch, general secretary of the U. S. Catholic Conference; Foy Valentine, executive secretary, Christian Life Commission, Southern Baptist Convention (SBC); Marc Tannenbaum, director of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee; Robert C. Campbell, general secretary, American Baptist Churches (ABC) in the USA, Inc.; and William P. Thompson, president of the National Council of Churches and stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church, USA.

The appeal, presented before the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, The House Agriculture Committee and the President's chief staff advisor on food reserves, called for legislation to provide enough grain to prevent famines, regulate prices, and encouraged food production in developing countries.

## MC Entrance Exam Scores Place Well Above Average

Despite nationwide declines in college entrance exam scores, the American College Testing (ACT) profile for the 1976 freshman class at Mississippi College was well above both state and national averages, it was announced by Van D. Quick, vice-president for student affairs.

Mississippi College freshmen scored 20.3 out of a possible 36 points on the composite score, including math, English, social studies, and natural science. The state composite was 15.3, with national figures showing 18.7.

"We have established a good trend in this area," said Quick. "In the past five years, the composite scores for

our freshman classes have fluctuated very little."

In the ACT comparison of mean high school grades, Mississippi College freshmen scored 3.08 out of a possible 4.00 while state figures were at 2.79 and national figures showed 2.90. Grade point averages (GPA) predicted by these freshmen for their first year in college showed 34 percent between 3.0-3.4.

The profile also showed that the highest planned educational major was in health sciences, with almost 23 percent indicating preference for this area.

## WMU Convention

# Speakers Urge Strong Stand For Missions

By Anne McWilliams

"Stand Strong in the Lord" was the theme of the 98th annual meeting of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union as speakers talked of standing strong in the Lord in state missions, in home missions, in foreign missions, and in Woman's Missionary Union.

The convention opened Monday evening, March 21, at Harrisburg Church in Tupelo, in a sanctuary packed to capacity with women from every section of the state. An estimated 1800 attended, including all sessions of the event that adjourned March 23 at noon.

"In far worse poverty are those who do not know Jesus Christ than those in physical poverty. And unless I have lifted my voice as a Christian to tell them of Him, I have not done enough," Robert Hamblin told the women. Hamblin, pastor of the host church and president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was featured speaker for Monday evening, in a message on state missions. "A program is being inaugurated now," he said, "to carry the gospel message in the next three years to every person in Mississippi."

He continued, "When the time was right, God sent His Son to redeem a lost world from sin. Now the fulness of time has arrived in Mississippi for us to step forward for Him. As Mississippi Baptists facing a task, we must be convicted of the lostness of man ... We must be convicted that God is able to save ... We must realize we can't have a commitment to the church unless we first have a commitment to God."

On Tuesday morning the representatives of Mississippi WMU attending the convention re-elected Mrs. Robert Smira of Jackson as state president and Mrs. E. M. Kee, Jr. of Woodville as state vice president. Mrs. Bill Duncan of Long Beach was elected to succeed Mrs. John Causey of Corinth as recording secretary and Mrs. G. W. Smith of Louisville was chosen to succeed Mrs. Joel Ray of Hattiesburg as associate recording secretary.

Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, spoke on "Standing Strong in Woman's Missionary Union." She said that the Baptist woman of today needs to be deep-rooted and strong and flexible as the pine, and able to bend with the wind, not shallow-rooted and stiff

as the palm, and apt to break in the path of adversity.

"Woman's Missionary Union is an organization for today," she declared. "As an organization in itself it takes us nowhere, but it provides a road — a way to do things that need to be done. It gives us a way to put our faith into action, a way to express our concern for others. It gives a woman a way to develop her leadership ability."

Foreign missionaries now on furlough in Mississippi spoke on standing strong for the Lord in the countries where they serve around the world: Mrs. Eddie Trott, Brazil; Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Buckley, Bangladesh; Mrs. Charles Ray, Thailand; Mr. and Mrs. Parkes Marler, Guam; Mary Joe Stewart, Ecuador; Rachel Dubard, Liberia; Charles Whitten, Spain; and Mr. and Mrs. James Foster, Philippines. Mrs. Ray and the Marlers work in English-language churches. Marler said that English-language work is carried on in 31 countries.

R. T. Buckley told the story of a young man who was not afraid to stand strong for the Lord in Bangladesh. The young man, age 26, had confessed faith in Christ and was to be baptized in a stream. A large crowd of Hindus and Moslems followed the small group of believers to the baptismal scene and began to jeer and throw sticks and dirt and coconut shells into the water. The pastor raised his hands and said, "Please! Be silent!" He asked the young man, "Do you confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior?" In a voice that could be heard to the edges of the crowd he answered, "YES!" Later the

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futurists shared "mind boggling" dreams of future floating space colonies and more readily identifiable issues such as increasing and extreme world population growth and famine, the decline of industrial civilization as we know it, and a revolutionary transformation of the planet as a result as possibilities for the future.

They stressed repeatedly that planning and projecting for the future must be accompanied by joint decision making processes, including all the citizenry or group members at all levels — including government, industry, and the church. And each predicted this would more and more come to be the practice of society.

Sunday School Board President Grady C. Cothen set the tone of the meeting by pinpointing several major issues and needs facing Southern Baptists, including a warning to Baptist leaders that "the future for Southern Baptists is built on very flimsy grounds unless denominational lead-

ers identify and cope with the confusing and often conflicting issues of modern society. The issue in my judgment needs to be, do we understand at least a smattering of the problems with which our age is confronted?"

Speakers throughout the four-day event stressed possibilities for Southern Baptists in the next decade and on into the year 2000.

A leading Southern Baptist planner of almost 20 years, Albert McClellan predicted that a rethinking and new understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the next decade could result in an unparalleled worldwide evangelistic thrust by the denomination.

"We will come to a new understanding of the gospel, but we will not reform it; that would be sacrilege," said McClellan, program planning director and associate executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Projects and questions raised by Lindaman, Toffler, McClellan, Cother and Orrin Morris, a demographic expert who is a regional coordinator in the SBC Home Mission Board's planning section, were used as bases for small group "think tank" discussions concerning Baptists' future and their role in the society of the future.

Six possible future themes or trends generally expected by participants were among those emerging most often as the groups reflected on the speakers' concepts and expectations. None of the possible trends was adopted or even voted but express what group members felt was apparently coming in Baptists' future:

1. Greater worldwide cooperation among Christian groups;  
2. Emphasis in practical, Christian stewardship — of time, energy, resources, and other areas of life. Many changes are expected to be forced on

society by increased scarcities in the future;

3. A significant increase in the number of women and ethnic minority persons is expected in the "higher levels" of SBC life, with ordained women pastors and women deacons to

(Continued on page 2)

## W. R. White

### Dies In Waco

WACO, Tex. (BP) — W. R. White, Baylor University president emeritus and Southern Baptist statesman, died here March 24, at the age of 84. The funeral was March 26, at First Baptist Church in Waco, with burial in Oakwood Cemetery.

White provided leadership for the Baptist General Convention of Texas as executive secretary during the depression years of 1929-31 and for Baylor University as president during postwar years of 1948-61.

White served as pastor of First Baptist Churches of Greenville, Tex., Lubbock, Tex., Oklahoma City, and Austin, Tex., and of Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth during his multi-faceted career of Christian service. First Baptist Church of Waco honored him last November with an appreciation day for his 29 years of membership there.

A graduate of Howard Payne College and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, White received honorary degrees from Howard Payne, Baylor, Hardin-Simmons University, University of Alabama, and Bishop College of Dallas.

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Mrs. Robert Smira of Jackson, right, was re-elected president of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, at the annual WMU Convention at Harrisburg, Tupelo. Mrs. Bill Duncan of Long Beach, left, was elected recording secretary, and Mrs. G. W. Smith of Louisville, center, was chosen as associate recording secretary.



Mrs. E. M. Kee, Jr., left, of Woodville, was re-elected vice president of the state WMU. Bob Hamblin, right, host pastor, brought the opening address on Monday evening.

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# The Baptist Record

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## In Jackson

# Southern Baptists Face Moral Issues In Seminar

Southern Baptists from across the nation spent three days at a national seminar in Jackson confronting an array of complicated moral issues — and deciding whether Christians have any fresh thoughts and acts to bring to bear on them.

Theologian Roger Shinn, professor of social ethics at New York's Union Theological Seminary, asked the pivotal question:

"Are the churches capable of clear and prophetic thinking about contemporary crises of humanity" or are they "so compromised by existing systems that they cannot find freedom for fresh thoughts and acts?"

More than 500 persons from 25 states took on this easy task as they grappled with moral priorities in such wide ranging areas as economics, race relations, media, preaching, churchmanship, feeding the hungry, nurturing families, global human rights,

and male-female roles. No consensus developed — nor was it expected to develop, according to the seminar's sponsor, the Southern Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission.

"Informed conversation of priorities is our goal," said Christian Life Commission staffer C. Welton Gaddy. "We have not intended,"

added Foy Valentine, the commission's chief executive, "to assume anything ... in regard to the church. We started out with a strong emphasis on evangelism, ended with an emphasis on the Christian faith and dealt in between with specific moral issues in the context of our conviction that Jesus Christ is Lord."

The seminar confronted ways Christians can apply biblical admonitions to reach out to needs of others when no absolute blueprint exists.

"The Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount do not in themselves tell us whether to let the SST land in America, how to come to an agreement in the SALT talks, ... how to get more food to Bangladesh, or whether to permit gene-splitting," Shinn said.

He declared that the issue of justice is starkly neglected — and that valid, unbiased information is lacking in human efforts to make difficult moral decisions.

The futuristic conference stressed possibilities for Southern Baptists in the next decade and on into the year 2000.

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Baptist Record Advisory Committee

The Baptist Record Advisory Committee elected officers during its first semi-annual meeting of 1977. J. B. Fowler, pastor of First Church, McComb, was named chairman; and James Carr, Jackson layman, was named vice-chairman. Evelyn Keyes, Baptist Record secretary, was named secretary. Standing left to right are Clarence Wilkinson, Clinton, and Carr. Seated clockwise, beginning at the top, are Don McGregor, editor; Gary Holland, Pascagoula newspaper editor; Fowler; Mrs. Anne McWilliams, editorial associate; Ferrell Cork, pastor of First Church, Aberdeen; and Vance Dyess, pastor of Raymond Road Church, Jackson.

## Southern Baptists Face Moral Issues In Seminar

(Continued from page 1) around the world that people want to have good relations with this country know we are going to take human rights pretty seriously," Proper said.

A New York newsman, Hal Wingo, news editor of People magazine, dealt with the moral dilemma of combatting pornography.

Convictions and jail sentences, he declared in reference to the recent conviction of Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt, are not the way to deal with pornography. He said he would like to see that "piece of smut drummed out of business by people not buying what he (Flynt) has to offer."

Wingo, son of a Texas Baptist minister, said Flynt is "guilty of gross taste... but when tastes become a criminal offense, punishable by prison... the wagons of censorship will begin to draw into an even tighter circle from which none of us will escape."

The Scanzonis — John and Letha — a husband-wife team of family and marriage experts from Bloomington, Ind., said the church must come to grips with the Christian dimension liberation of women.

Traditionally, women "have been permitted to cook church dinners but not to serve the Lord's supper," declared Letha Scanzioni, an author and lecturer.

In the course of their discussion on the moral dimension of male-female relationships, they blasted the hierarchical male-over-female relationships espoused by certain persons on Christian lecture circuits. John Scanzioni, professor of sociology at Indiana University, compared that kind of domination to the kind Hitler instituted in Nazi Germany.

Professor of preaching John Killinger of Vanderbilt University Divinity School, and Kristen Stendahl, dean of Harvard University Divinity School, spoke to moral dilemmas of preaching and churchmanship.

Killinger called for ministers to free their minds of old habits, familiar routines, and respond keenly to a fresh spirit of the times as a priority in preaching the gospel.

Stendahl decried secularization of evangelism and church affairs, declaring: "If the Apostle Paul spoke our language he would say to us: 'Remember that you cannot sell Jesus as the world sells toothpaste. You cannot run a church as the world runs a corporation with Harvard Business School graduates.'"

Federal Communications Commissioner Benjamin Hooks, president-elect of the NAACP, warned his predominantly white audience that the civil rights battle is not over — even though "many white people of good will" think it is.

Hooks, a Baptist minister, de-



Speakers' sophisticated analysis, combined effectively, observers noted, with equally sophisticated uses of music and humor.

Ken Medema of Upper Montclair, N.J., a blind singer pianist turned

philosopher-preacher with extemporaneous theme interpretations — often gentle, often towering — to speak of being a Christian, or discipleship, of wonder, of fellowship.

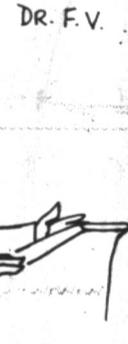
"For a man who does not see, he paints vivid images; he has prophetic and poetic insights," said John Claypool, Jackson, Miss., pastor, who also led theme interpretations.

Leading his listeners in a voyage through the "sage of life" — touching on childhood, adolescences, young adulthood, "middle - essence and aging" — Claypool said, "I want to float with you down the stream of life, finding out what are the priorities of life, what are the resources of life."

Comedian Jerry Clower, regaled his audience with his particular brand of rural Mississippi humor, but got serious, saying that problems of world hunger and interracial hatred are not laughing matters.

But, he said, "If you are involved in some movement and you can't smile about it, you need to get over in the corner and see what side you're on.... There's only one place where there ain't any laughter — and that's Hell."

Expenses for the conference were paid for by conference fees paid by participants.



ing. These two depict Foy Valentine, commission executive secretary, and conference participants, coming to grips with priorities during the three-day meeting in Jackson, Miss. (BP) Photo of art by Joe McKeever.

## College Trustees Agree To Re-Examine Divorce Policy

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP) — Protests from faculty, alumni and students have caused the board of trustees of California Baptist College here to take another look at a policy they adopted recently on hiring divorced persons for faculty and administrative posts.

The 20-member board approved a policy that the administration of the college "refrain from the employment of administrative officers and teaching personnel who have been divorced."

The policy, which would not affect administration and faculty already divorced, will not go into effect until the board's May meeting when the trustees will re-examine the policy in light of protests, according to Dr. Andrew Tucker, chairman of the board of the four-year, liberal arts Southern Baptist school.

Critics of the policy say the ruling does not allow persons who are "innocent bystanders" in a divorce to serve at the school.

The academic dean and I have told the board we think we should be careful on the question of divorce but that we feel the policy is too restrictive and that each case should be looked at on an individual basis," James Staples, college president, told Baptist Press.

"Only four of 51 faculty members at the school are divorced," said Staples. "Only one of those has tenure, and her

former husband is deceased."

Academic Dean Stephen Carleton said he agrees that the example set by teachers is a "unique ingredient of a Christian education" but that there needs to be flexibility to deal with individuals.

"There are instances where a divorce is justified, such as when the spouse runs off, has severe mental problems, or is incurably alcoholic," Carleton said. "Hiring should be done on a case-by-case basis. A hiring policy such as this, which allows for no

exceptions, is wrong."

Board Chairman Tucker has said that the trustees "won't back down" but "may modify the policy somewhat" at the May meeting.

"There is a tendency for moral deterioration to creep into colleges," he said. "We feel the breakdown in the homes in our society is a sign of moral deterioration. The board feels that the faculty should represent as close to an ideal Christian witness as practical. The scriptures have definite things to say about divorce."

## Three Return To Uganda To Process Work Permits

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — Three Southern Baptist missionaries returned to Uganda March 13 to spend a week processing official permits to work in the country and to assess the general situation there.

Davis L. Saunders, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's area secretary for Eastern and Southern Africa, said G. Webster Carroll of West Virginia, Harry B. Garvin of Texas, and James L. Rice of Virginia, drove back into Uganda and were in daily contact with their families who are remaining in Kenya.

In a telephone report March 15 to the board's home office in Richmond,

Saunders said the men found no difficulties being experienced in Soroti and Jinja, the two major areas of Southern Baptist work in Uganda.

The missionaries were scheduled to return to Kenya on March 20 and expected to meet with Saunders as they make decisions about their future plans.

Saunders, now on a tour of the countries in his area, said he would not be able to visit in Uganda personally because no tourists are being allowed in at this time.

The three Southern Baptist couples have been in Kenya since late February.

## Texas Baptists Blast Pari-Mutuel Measure

DALLAS (BP) — The Texas Baptists executive board struck a sledgehammer blow here at a pari-mutuel gambling bill (H.B. 1499) introduced the same day in the Texas House of Representatives by Laredo Representative Billy Hall.

Almost simultaneously, at its quarterly meeting in Dallas, the 192-member executive board said, "We are sick and tired of a few legislators trying to convince the entire state government that it should evade its responsibility by allowing local option elections on gambling."

Among its reasons for opposing pari-mutuel gambling the board cited regressive taxes, corruption of public officials, increase in organized crime and wealthy sportsmen capitalizing on the misfortunes of the poor.

The board, which urged Texas Baptists to call and write elected officials, also directed the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission to make available to Texas Baptist churches specific

information on positions taken by legislators on gambling and "any action they take which promotes gambling."

"We are fed up with exaggerated claims of gambling revenues when national studies flatly contradict such claims," added which represents two million Texas Baptists in some 4,000 Southern Baptist churches.

Citing Texans for their wisdom in voting down other proposals to legalize gambling, the board said, "That wisdom must be reflected in the decisions of this legislature. We cannot allow gross manipulation of government to serve the pocketbooks of a few special interests."

Texas Baptists charged that "any move for a statewide vote would confirm that the gambling interests' current frantic appeals for funds have failed" and that "the vast sums of money necessary for a statewide campaign would surely come from questionable sources outside the state."

## Shelby Baptist Association

### Opposes Pari-Mutuels

MEMPHIS (BP) — The executive board of the Shelby Baptist Association voted unanimously here to oppose the establishment of a race track allowing pari-mutuel betting in Tennessee.

The association, composed of 118 churches with a total membership of 120,974, "requested all levels of political leadership to reject the legalization of a race track in Tennessee and to spend more time and effort in bringing productive sources of revenue into the state..."

John Bedford, chairman, of the association's Christian Life Committee and pastor of Beverly Hills Baptist Church, offered the resolution.

Contending that criminal activity was flourishing despite all efforts of law enforcement activities, the Bap-

tists said it was inconsistent for the government to legalize criminal activities (such as gambling) for itself and, at the same time, to prohibit private enterprise from participating in the identical activity.

"It is immoral for a government to attempt to profit from the weakness of its citizens," the resolution said. "The crime and harm done to the innocent citizens would be more costly than the small amount of funds raised by the establishment of a race track allowing pari-mutuel gambling."

"Gambling has historically been the core of criminal organization that expands into other areas of crime," the resolution continued. "Legalization of pari-mutuel gambling would encourage organized crime."

## Baptist Predictions Sealed For Decade

(Continued from page 1)

become more widespread in the churches;

4—Increased use of modern communications, including use of telecommunications for mass media Bible study, two-way television, cable TV, and satellite possibilities for regional or worldwide evangelism via broadcasting;

5—A need for greater emphasis on a biblical basis for future planning;

6—Calling for a sophisticated means of gleaning input from Southern Baptists at the "grass roots" and all levels of denominational life, to include larger numbers of Baptists in the decision making processes.

Morris cited issues that are not exclusive to Southern Baptists but are some he believes the denomination will have to contend with in the next 25 years. These include population growth worldwide, influx of immigrants to the United States, population shift in this country, a global-system perspective and changing family styles among others.

Toward the close of the conference, Harry Hollis, director of family and special moral concerns for the denomination's Christian Life Commission, agreed in part with a statement made earlier by Toffler that the church has a role to play in clarifying values.

Toffler, a humorist, had told participants that people are being confronted by more and more complex decisions and that he believes "the churches have an absolutely critical role to play in the future," in helping people clarify internal values. "If we're not clear about values, we can't make good decisions," he said.

Hollis told the Baptists, however,

that the church must do more than help people clarify values. "We must also be concerned about the nature of these values," which means to him commitment to certain values such as love, justice and truth.

William M. Pinson Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church in Wichita Falls, Tex., cited theological trends on the decline — liberalism, neo-orthodoxy, secular Christianity, and social gospel. Those on the rise and to be major in the next 25 years include conservative or evangelical theology, dispensationalism, and "theology of hope," said the former professor of Christian ethics at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.

Pinson said he believes there will be increased evangelism and church growth, greater emphasis on the Holy Spirit, and renewed emphasis on apologetics (defense of the Christian rationale) in Baptists' future.

In his closing remarks to participants, James W. Clark, executive vice president of the Sunday School Board, said that among the various denominational agencies and the Baptist state conventions the future will have to be one of greater cooperation, less competing, and greater inter-dependence. An increased sharing of research results by the board and other agencies concerning needs of the churches of Christians and Non-Christians, will be vital, he said.

In the final analysis, the contemporary church — Baptists included — must be responsible for its own future, "through its individual members called of God in Koinonia," Lindaman said.

"The church must plan for its own future," he admonished.



Edward B. Lindaman (left), a leading authority on futurism and president of Whitworth College, Spokane, Wash., addressed SBC leaders during a Sunday School Board-sponsored Futuristic Conference recently at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center. Discussing technological and social changes with (l to r) James Lee Young, feature editor of Baptist Press; Bob Terry, editor of "Word and Way," official journal of the Missouri Baptist Convention; and Wallace H. Carrier, coordinating editor in the adult section of the Sunday School Board's Sunday School department. (BP) PHOTO by The Sunday School Board.

**CHRISTIAN ACTION**

## Family Life Enrichment Meet Features "A Circle Of Love"

"The Christian Family: A Circle of Love" will be the theme of the Mississippi Family Life Enrichment Conference April 4, 5 according to J. Clark Hensley, executive director, Christian Action Commission, which is sponsoring the conference. All sessions will be held at Alta Woods Baptist Church, 168 Colonial Drive, Jackson, MS.

Conference personalities include Ann Alexander, Jackson; Gary Anglin, minister of music, Alta Woods Baptist Church, Jackson; Leon Emery, director, Dept. of Church Administration, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Mrs. J. Clark Hensley, Jackson; Joe Hinkle, secretary, family life ministry section, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville; Tim Holcomb, minister to single adults, First Baptist Church, Jackson; John Howell, dean, Midwestern Seminary,

Kansas City; Mike Jeter, minister to youth, FBC, Jackson; Horace Kerr, section on aging, family life ministry, Sunday School Board; George Lee, director of missions, Columbia, Miss.; Ben Loring, associate, Christian Life Commission, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas; Charles Myers, pastor, Alta Woods Baptist Church; Mrs. Norman Rogers, organist, Alta Woods Baptist Church; and J. Phillip Stanberry, assistant professor of religious education, Mississippi College, Clinton.

Joe Hinkle will bring the keynote address on Monday evening, followed by age group conferences for the entire family.

Howell will lead the pastors in a Bible study on the family, beginning on Monday night. This Bible study will continue on Tuesday with four ses-

sions. Other special emphases will be: Programming a Family Ministry, The Deacon's Family Ministry, Twentieth Century Parenting, The Church's Ministry to Senior Adults, Ministry to Single Adults, and Marriage Enrichment.

The closing message on Tuesday evening, following another series of conferences for all the family, will be given by Loring.

The Hinds-Madison Baptist Association Council is cooperating to publicize and promote this family life emphasis for churches of this area. Representation is expected from all over the state.

The sessions will be from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Monday and Tuesday evenings and 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 2:00-5:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

Randall Hall Wins Trophy For Skill In Piano Playing

Randall Hall, right, was recipient of the trophy for outstanding piano performance at the State Keyboard Festival at Blue Mountain College on February 26. The winner was chosen by a panel of judges from Baptist colleges in Mississippi.

Presenting the trophy to Randall is Dot Pray, Keyboard Coordinator for the Church Music Department, MBCB.

Randall is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan C. Hall of Jackson.

### WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

### CHURCH TRAINING

## In Six Months Diploma Awards Equal All 75-76

With only half the church year gone, Church Training reports more Church Training Leadership diplomas as awarded in six months this year than all of last year. Sixteen diplomas have been awarded since October 1, 1976.

One husband-wife combination have earned diplomas, Mr. and Mrs. Athens McNeill of Griffin Street Baptist Church, Moss Point. Two individuals have earned diplomas in all five of the specialization areas. These are Frank M. Starr, Jr., Minister of Education, Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale, and Kermit S. King of the Mississippi Church Training Department.

"T-Day At the Baptist Building" is one effort to provide Church Training workers an opportunity to work to-

ward their Church Training Leadership Diploma. The next one will be held on May 5 from 9:30-3:30, and will feature the "understanding" books for all age-division workers. These books are Understanding Adults, Understanding Youth, Understanding Children, and Understanding Preschoolers.

General Officers will be offered a special conference featuring an overview of three books required for their diploma. These are Church Leader Training Manual, New Church Member Orientation Manual, and Introduction to Church Leadership.

A special book offer which requires advance registration has been made by mail to pastors and Church Training Directors.

A Missions Education Day Camp Workshop will be held at Camp Garawa, Clinton, Saturday, April 30, from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. It is to be jointly promoted by WMU and Brotherhood.

Paul Harrell, director, Brotherhood Department, MBCB, and Waudine Storey, consultant, Woman's Missionary Union, will lead a session on the basic methods for day camping.

GA and Acteen directors and Acteen members from several churches over the state will direct unit activities for the day. The area unit of study is on missions in the United States — migrants, resort ministries, Indians, Mexican-Americans, and in Hawaii. There will be a presentation of "Your Land — My Land," the day camp unit from the January - March Aware-

written by Mrs. Paul Swadley of Springfield, Mo. Every story, game, activity, even food suggestions are planned so that children will learn more of missions in their own land.

Persons who will make up the day camp staff in your church are invited to the workshop. The cost will be \$2.50 per person, and will include one meal, insurance, and the program for the day. Groups may bring a sack lunch if they choose, and only pay \$1 registration.

To follow the Day Camp Workshop, Day Camping Conferences will be held Tuesday, May 3, in two churches: at First, Magee, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and at First Church, Wiggins, from 7 to 9 p.m. The Day Camp unit will be presented at each.

After a pastor had preached a sermon on ownership in which he pointed out the

### The Missions Task

## Choose: God Or Gold?

By John Alexander, Director, Stewardship Department, MBCB

A few years back, a fellow in West Texas, who had of necessity lived rather frugally, experienced the trauma of having oil discovered on his small farm. One of his first actions was to go into town and buy a new gold Cadillac. His second move was to visit an attorney and have it placed in his will that he be buried in that gold Cadillac. One the way home he suffered a fatal heart attack. As a machine lowered him and his Cadillac into the grave, one thoughtful mourner exclaimed, "Man, that's really living!"

The word stewardship is a rather broad, general term that describes the Christian life in all its aspects. The New Testament word used to describe the Christian life-style was *oikonomia*, and translated "stewardship." Our English word "steward" means a house manager, one who handles the affairs and property of another.

Each Christian is a steward. He should recognize God as Creator. God owns the whole world by right of creation. In Luke 12:42-48, the unwise steward lived his life as though God would never be present and he could do as he pleased.

The story of the rich fool points out a mistake many often make. He had a bumper crop and small storage space. He solved the storage problem with bigger barns. He did not face up to the second problem — what to do with the goods in his bulging barns. He mistakenly appropriated all of it for the enjoyment of himself. He completely abdicated his stewardship responsibility. Most stories of sudden riches end with the familiar line, "and he lived happily ever after." Not with this fellow! His story ended with the epitaph, "Thou fool!"

The sin of hoarding is dealt with in the scriptures. The hoarder is not satisfied with "enough" for life, he continues to build bigger barns. His trust turns from God to gold. Greed and selfishness totally possess him. He becomes a slave of creation instead of the Creator. Materialism becomes his religion and money his god. While his soul shrinks, his gluttonous attitude toward the "good life" runs rampant. He tends to forget that what he has is a gift of God.

God's desire for the Christian is a way of life whereby he is protected from greed and selfishness. To help each one escape the sin of selfishness, and keep in us a sense of responsibility for all we possess, God calls each one to return regularly a part of his income to finance God's work in the church and around the world. Christian giving is an acknowledgment of God's ownership and man's stewardship. Giving is for man's benefit, not God's benefit. God already owns whatever is given!

After a pastor had preached a sermon on ownership in which he pointed out the

natural nature of possessions, one exercised member protested, "But that's my farm, my house, my business, isn't it?" My name is on the deed and it's mine, isn't it?" The perceptive pastor responded, "Come back in 100 years and I'll answer that question for you."

It is a mistake to treat temporal things as if they were eternal. Jesus asked the pointed question, "For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?" (Matt. 16:26).

For whosoever would save his life (selfishly unto himself) shall lose it: and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake (in my cause) shall find it" (Matt. 16:25).

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Matt. 16:24).

"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then shall he render unto every man according to his deeds (doing)." (Matt. 16:27).

No man can simultaneously put his complete trust in God and material possessions. Each Christian must accept responsibility for an entire lifestyle lived under the freedom of God's grace.

### SMALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CONFERENCES

FOR SUNDAY SCHOOLS WITH APPROXIMATELY 150 OR LESS AVERAGE ATTENDANCE

One Conference Planned For Pastors—Directors  
All Church-Elected Sunday School  
Officers and Teachers

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Associations and Meeting Places APRIL 11 Conference Leaders

MISSISSIPPI, Liberty Bryant M. Cummings, Director Sunday School Department Jackson

PEARL RIVER, Central, McNeil Judd R. Allen, Sunday School Department, Jackson

GEORGE-GREENE, Sand Hill Billy Hudgens, Sunday School Department, Jackson

LAMAR, Bellevue Larry Salter, Sunday School Department, Jackson

ADAMS, Washington Mose Dangerfield, Sunday School Department, Jackson

WALTHALL, Knox David Hussey, Minister of Education, Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

JONES, Hebron A. V. Windham, Minister of Education, Temple Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

LAWRENCE, Vanilla Marcus Finch, Pastor, Wildwood Baptist Church, Laurel

COVINGTON, Willow Grove Bert Jones, Minister of Education, First Baptist Church, Laurel

APRIL 12

PIKE, West McComb Bryant Cummings

GULF COAST, Northward Judd R. Allen

JACKSON, Wood Haven Billy Hudgens

LEBANON, Calvary Larry Salter

UNION, Fayette Mose Dangerfield

MARION, Emmanuel David Hussey

PERRY, New Augusta A. V. Windham

JEFF DAVIS, Antioch Marcus Finch

LINCOLN, Mt. Pleasant Farrell Blankenship, Minister of Education, First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg

JASPER, Lake Como Bert Jones

APRIL 14

WARREN, Immokure Bryant Cummings

RANKIN, Bogue Chitto Judd R. Allen

HINDS-MADISON, Whitwood Billy Hudgens

LAUDERDALE, Mt. Olive Larry Salter

SCOTT, Liberty Mose Dangerfield

SIMPSON, Baptist Center David Hussey

COPPER, Spring Hill A. V. Windham

NEWTON, Hopewell Bert Jones

SMITH, First Mts. Farrell Blankenship

CLARKE-WAYNE, Shubuta Bert Jones

## Miss. Singing Churchmen Offer Jackson Concerts

The Mississippi Singing Churchmen under the direction of Dan C. Hall, Director of Church Music for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will present two concerts in the Jackson area on April 4, and April 5.

The Mississippi Singing Churchmen is composed of more than 70 ministers of music from churches across the

state of Mississippi and has cut two record albums and toured South America at the invitation of the Foreign Mission Board. They will present a concert of sacred music at First Baptist Church, Brandon, on Monday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m. and on Tuesday, April 5 at 10:30 a.m. at Woodland Hills Academy. The public is cordially invited to attend.

APRIL, 1977

Discover potential workers and start a potential worker training class April 1977. Make a concerted effort to locate persons who might become Sunday School workers. Resources: "How to Improve Bible Teaching and Learning in Sunday School;" Pastor-Director Guide and Training Potential Sunday School Workers" both available January 1977 in Baptist Book Stores.

Conduct a Sunday School workers' recognition service sometime during April. Resources: "How to Improve Bible Teaching and Learning in Sunday School;" "Pastor-Director Guide;" "Sunday School Worker Appreciation Certificate." OUTREACH magazine, March 1977.

Attend conference for Small Sunday Schools (under 200 enrolled). The Sunday School department will be conducting conferences for Sunday Schools with less than 200 enrolled.

April 24 Y-High Days (See explanation in January)

### Sunday School

BAPTIST DOCTRINE WEEK. Conduct Baptist Doctrine Week, April 3-8. Beginning this year a specific doctrine will be the content of the book prepared for adults. In 1977, the topic will be "The Doctrine of God." Books recommended for all age divisions. See Church Study Course catalog.

BEGIN A NEW CHURCH MEMBER TRAINING GROUP. If the church does not have an on-going New Church Member Training program, begin such a group following the spring revival. Materials available on literature order. Consultation available from Church Training Department.

### Church Music

Resurrection Sing. A congregation "sermon in song" for Easter.

HYMN OF THE MONTH: "Alleluia! Alleluia!", page 117, New Hymnal

### Evangelism

CARE Revivals (Preparation Packet available in Baptist Book Store, Jan. 77.)

### Stewardship

Observe Cooperative Program Day on the third Sunday. Enlist educational organizations to help promote this special emphasis.

Carry articles and line art on the Cooperative Program in church publications.

Schedule an adult study of the Church Training undated resource unit "Christian Family Money Management."

Conduct Money Management Conferences for each age group in the church.

Work with leadership of the Youth to schedule the special Youth in Stewardship study.

## Coming Soon

Three North Mississippi area evangelism conferences will take place in mid-April.

The three will be held at FBC, Cleveland on April 11; FBC, Oxford, April 12; and West End church, West Point, April 14.

Roy Collum of the MBCB Evangelism Development, which sponsors the events, will lead in discussion of CARE Revivals, and will detail mass and personal evangelism projects.

Each conference will last from

7:15 - 9:10 p.m.

# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Editorials

### Baptist Record Guidelines

Back on Sept. 1 the writer moved into the editorship by simply taking a functioning organization and trying to keep it going. Things continued to roll along, and there never seemed to be an opportunity to discuss theories and policies that were to be the guidelines for the future.

Perhaps this would be a good time. The writer is out of town attending a Sunday School Board Conference on Futurism. This was written in advance.

In the first place, the objective of the Baptist Record is to promote the Kingdom of God by trying to be of help to the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. We seek to do this by providing information with the thought that the knowledge will aid church members in their service to the churches. The information will take on two forms, that of news of Baptists across Mississippi and around the world and that of promotion of the conferences and projects of the departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

In addition, the Baptist Record will seek to keep Mississippi Baptists aware of issues that face them and will discuss those issues as much as possible.

ble and try to provide a forum for readers to discuss them also.

We will continue to solicit news from the churches and from the associations so that we can keep Mississippi Baptists abreast of what is going on in Mississippi.

At this point, then, is needed a discussion of the deadlines for news and for promotional material. The news deadline is noon on Friday ahead of the next Thursday publication date. If the material comes in the mail, it would have to be in the office by Friday morning, as there is no later delivery. This refers to all types of news including revival dates. Promotional material will need to be in the office two days earlier on Wednesday. These deadlines are necessary for the staff to get the material prepared for typesetting in time for it to be put into the paper.

Reservations for ads need to be made at least two weeks ahead of publication date and copy received no later than one week ahead of publication.

We will not mention every book that comes into the office, but selected ones will be reviewed. The appearance of the review of a book in the Baptist Re-

cord does not mean endorsement by the Baptist Record. It simply means that this book is one of many that come in that the staff feels would be of interest to readers.

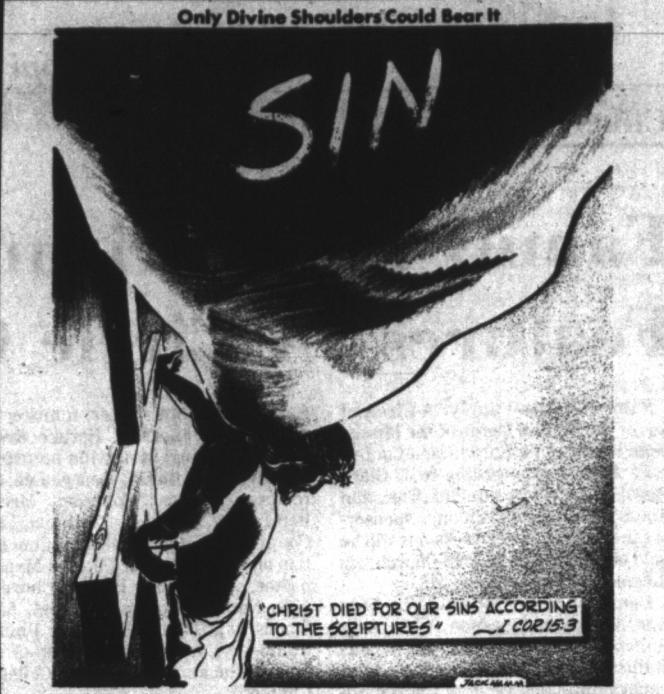
We are also printing letters to the editor. As much as we are able to do so, we will print all that come in for the purpose of being printed. We will have to maintain editorial judgment in this matter, and generally the guidelines will be to discuss issues rather than personalities. Sometimes there will be comments below the letters. This will not mean necessarily that the editor takes issue with the writer. More likely it would indicate that the editor felt some additional information would be pertinent.

The Baptist Record belongs to Mississippi Baptists. We want it to be particularly helpful to all Baptists in Mississippi. In order to finance its publication, we have to make a subscription charge. We have a very fine experience in circulation, for which we are very grateful.

It is a pleasure to be associated with Mississippi Baptists and with the Baptist Record. We will do our best to be good stewards of the trust that has been given us.

## On The Moral Scene

K-C TELLS SHOPS TO AVOID VIOLENT AD VEHICLES — Kimberly - Clark Corporation instructed its two consumer products agencies on January 7, not to buy time for K-C products on television programs characterized by "excessive violence or anti-social behavior." These guides apply to print as well. The guidelines, issued by VP Wayne Bildahl, said no schedules should be placed with media whose programming or editorial content is "judged generically to be violent or anti-social;" or media whose programming is "on occasion excessively violent or anti-social or indicates a potential for such characteristics." Instructions also say that "to the degree possible, contractual agreements with the media should be established and enforced on this subject." Leo Burnett U.S.A. and Kelly, Nason are K-C's shops. (Advertising Age, January 10, 1977, p. 1)



### Personally . . .

Two visits to the coastal area recently were very interesting and highly rewarding. The first occasion was a trip to Biloxi to cover the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association. On Friday night and Saturday morning I was able to enjoy a concert and an inspirational period by a friend from Texas, Beverly Terrell. This was especially fine, and a time equally so was on Sunday morning at First Church, Biloxi. They had invited Cynthia Clawson and her husband, Ragan Courtney, to have charge of the morning service. This young couple has talent and ability such as one wouldn't believe both individually and collectively.

I began to notice Cynthia Clawson while she was still a student at Howard Payne College in Texas. Next she was in a summer replacement show on television, and then she married Ragan Courtney. What a delightful character he is. They came out to Fresno while I was in California and performed in "Celebrate Life." It was

a great performance at a statewide youth conference.

Now they have put together a new presentation called "Bright New Wings." They did it at Ridgecrest during Home Mission Week. It was fine. Some of the material performed at Biloxi came from "Bright New Wings," but some of it was just old backwoods country church music such as I grew up on in Texas, and they performed it with such class as to raise goose bumps.

This young couple is special in my thinking. Now they have added to their troupe Cynthia's younger sister, Patty. She sings some in the performance and plays the piano with considerable talent and ability. The girls' mother and grandmother were in the audience the day my wife and I were. Ragan, by the way, is from northern Louisiana. Cynthia is from San Antonio, Texas.

The other trip was to New Orleans. It bears mentioning especially, for it was a gathering of the Mississippi students at New Orleans Seminary. Dr. Earl

Kelly, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board executive secretary-treasurer; W. R. Roberts, Annuity Board representative; and I went down to meet with these young people. Including the wives who were present, there were 132 at the dinner.

It was an inspiring occasion to be associated with these bright and dedicated young people. One need not fear the future when he is aware of the caliber of people who will be moving into places of service in the next few years.

Jimmy Dukes is president of the Mississippi group at New Orleans Seminary. It is interesting to note that there are more students from Mississippi at New Orleans Seminary than there are from any other state. Mississippi College alumni lead the college enrollment there, and William Carey College is in second place.

It is truly our seminary, and we can be proud of the Mississippi young people who are there. Perhaps the Lord will lead a goodly number of them back to Mississippi. —DTM

## Letters To The Editor

### B. C. Land Books Available

#### Television Culture

Dear Editor:

You might care to print the following copy of a letter I have sent to C.B.S., N.B.C., and A.B.C., Television Networks in New York, N. Y.

I am writing you to express the deep concern that I and many others in this community feel about the obvious trend in broadcasting television shows that glorify violence, sex and what is commonly called the "counter culture."

"Counter culture," of course, is no culture: literally meaning "against culture." The term lives up to its definition.

The budget volume on page 7 has a picture and note saying, "This book is affectionately and appreciatively dedicated to Stuart Benson Kirkland, deacon and Sunday School Superintendent, First Baptist Church, Quitman, Mississippi whose faithful, fruitful stewardship of self, service, and substance has been a source of abiding inspiration and unfailing encouragement for nearly twenty years."

Church finance has come a long way since these volumes were produced but the eternal truths contained in them have not changed. Pastors, staff people, and teachers could profit from reading this material.

I am certain that much of the tremendous work being done in our churches, and in missions around the world, is directly related to the foundations laid by such early teachers and preachers as Dr. B. C. Land.

These approximately 150 page volumes have an introduction by Dr. A. L. Goodrich, editor of the Baptist Record. Dr. Goodrich says about Dr. Land, "No man today is better equipped to speak with clarity, conviction, understanding, and authority on this vital subject. His stewardship revivals, conferences, and books have endeared him to multitudes. He is known far and wide as 'The Tithing Evangelist', a friend of pastors, a helper of churches, and leading advocate of stewardship."

If you would treasure one or both of these books by early Mississippi Baptist Stewardship teacher and preacher, Dr. B. C. Land, you may request a free copy from the Stewardship Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

John Alexander  
Director, Stewardship  
Department

The Baptist mobile medical team in Mexico headed by Lee Baggett, Southern Baptist representative, treated 7,583 patients in 1976. Some 263 professions of faith were registered.

### "Then And Now . . . Our State Papers"

Louie D. Newton Challenges Baptists To Renew Promotion Of State Papers

EDITOR'S NOTE: Louie D. Newton of Atlanta was a featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Press Association in Charleston.

The Baptist Record felt his message had historical and promotional merit which justified reprinting highlights.

(Following is an edited version of Dr. Newton's message in Charleston as it appeared in the Christian Index of Georgia.)

By Louie D. Newton

"Wisdom has fled Southern Baptists if we fail to welcome and heed the appeal of these devoted and cherished editors of our state Baptist papers to undergird their blessed effort, week after week, to advance the kingdom of God in our local churches, district associations, state conventions, and the Southern Baptist Convention through evangelism, missions, education and benevolence," declared George W. Truett in an impassioned address to the messengers in the 95th session of

the Southern Baptist Convention in Baltimore, June 13, 1940.

Dr. Truett's message followed presentation of a request from the winter meeting of the editors in New Orleans in 1940 that the Southern Baptist Convention lend its approval and support to the plan of the editors to get state Baptist papers in the budget of every Baptist church in the convention.

Editor E. C. Routh of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger moved the adoption of the appeal from the editors, and editor W. C. Allen of the South Carolina Baptist Courier seconded the motion.

"We Ought, and We Will!"

L. R. Scarborough, then president of the convention, before putting the motion, fervently declared:

"We ought, and we will, as our next step, reinforce and undergird our editors and our papers, in unceasing prayer and earnest effort. The greatest single informational achievement for Southern Baptists is the editing and distribution of our state Baptist papers. . . ."

Dr. Routh's motion called for appointment of a permanent committee of the convention to launch this effort to increase circulation of state Baptist papers and report annually to the convention.

President Scarborough appointed the following committee: Louie D. Newton, Georgia, chairman; W. R. White, Oklahoma; Sydney L. Stealey, North Carolina; Rebek E. Alley, Virginia; Lewis A. Myers, Arkansas; and Mrs. Manon Seawell, Texas (See SBC Annual, 1940, page 54.)

Circulation Then and Now

Combined circulation of the 19 state Baptist papers in 1940 was 190,083. We set a goal of 500,000 by 1945, the centennial year of the convention. The SBC Annual for 1945 shows that the total circulation had reached 547,254.

We then set a goal of 1,000,000 by 1955 and the SBC Annual for 1955 shows a circulation of 1,157,444. We then set a goal of 1,500,000 by 1965, and the 1965 Annual shows total circulation of 1,540,260.

Having served as chairman for 25 years, I asked that someone else be named. Herschel H. Hobbs served from 1965 to 1975 when Franklin Pashall became chairman.

Circulation of the present 33 state Baptist papers in 1976 totaled 1,852,828. The current goal is 2,000,000 by 1985, leaving an unfinished task of securing 147,174 new subscribers in 1985. "We ought, and we will," to quote Dr. Scar-

#### The Church Budget Plan

One thing we now know: The most effective plan of enlarging the ministry of our state Baptist papers is getting more of them, week after week, into our Baptist homes by putting the paper in the church budget.

This is the way the circulation was increased from 190,683 in 1940 to 1,540,260 in 1965, just 25 years. If there had been a better way to do it, I believe our state and Southern Baptist Convention leaders would have discovered it.

John Hurt and Jack Harwell will tell you that I often say to our people in Georgia that any church will put The Christian Index in its budget for one year, and if at the end of that year the pastor and the people feel that it has not been worthwhile—that the people are not reading it—if they so write me, giving me the amount the church paid for the paper, I will mail them my check to reimburse the church. I have never received such a letter.

#### Twelve 19th Century States

Look at your SBC Annual for 1976, page 91, and you will see the listing of the 12 19th century state Baptist papers in the convention. I herewith list them in chronological order:

The Christian Index, Georgia, 1822;

The Western Recorder, Kentucky, 1826;

The Religious Herald, Virginia, 1828;

The Biblical Recorder, North Carolina, 1833;

The Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee, 1835;

The Alabama Baptist, Alabama, 1835;

The Baptist Courier, South Carolina, 1869;

The Baptist Record, Mississippi, 1877;

The Baptist Message, Louisiana, 1883;

The Baptist Witness, Florida, 1884;

The Baptist Standard, Texas, 1888;

The Word and Way, Missouri,

1895.

In these 12 19th century states, you will find that there are 10,415,664 members in the 25,773 churches, and that there are 1,400,000 homes in the 25,773 churches which receive their respective state Baptist paper.

#### What About 20th Century States?

On the same page of the 1976 SBC Annual you will find the answer to the above question:

There are 21 20th century states and/or regional conventions listed—Arkansas to South Dakota—with 6,729 churches with combined membership of 2,319,999. And in these 6,729 churches there are 452,826 homes receiving their respective state or regional Baptist paper.

#### Now, What About the Future?

Grateful for the past, and who isn't? What a blessed heritage! But do we not agree here in historic Charleston, where Baptist work in the South began 294 years ago, do we not agree that we dare not rest on our oars? Never. Can't we hear the whispers of our past—"Arise, Go Forward?" Remember the words of our Lord to Joshua:

"Moses My servant is dead; now, therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them. . . . Be strong, and of a good courage; for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them. Only be thou strong and very courageous. . . . Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

Luther Rice and George Truett and Lee Scarborough and E. Y. Mullins and J. B. Gambrell and all that blessed host of leaders are still speaking to Southern Baptists. I believe it, and I love to think that you believe it, that our leaders today believe it.

Meanwhile, we do have the words of our Saviour and Lord:

"As My Father hath sent Me, even so I send you. . . . And ye shall be witnesses unto Me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. . . . And, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Amen, and Amen.

## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Every year I say to Marjean Patterson, "This year's WMU Convention was the best yet!" and she tells me— "You said that last year!" I've only been to maybe fifteen WMU conventions—and I doubt if anyone in the state can match the record of Mrs. D. R. Bowen of Cleveland who this year attended her 41st consecutive one.

Last week's convention at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, was the second in Tupelo since 1905. Harrisburg has a beautiful sanctuary, only two years old, and the church's pastor is Bob Hamlin, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The convention was extra special to me this year because my mother, Mrs. Emmett Washburn of LaFayette, Alabama, went with me. For 14 years she was WMU director at County Line Church near LaFayette. (My birthday came on the 22nd, in the middle of the convention, and it was the first time my mother and I had been together on my birthday for a long time.)

I am grateful to Woman's Missionary Union for the influence it has had on my life. For one thing, Alabama WMU scholarships paid a good-sized portion of my tuition at Judson College.

When the state president, Mrs. Robert Smirnoff, introduced Mary Elizabeth (Mrs. Charles) Ray, missionary to Thailand, she said, "I heard one of her fellow missionaries say that Mary Elizabeth has a sweeter rapport with the Thai people than anyone she has known."

When she said that, I thought of Mrs. Ray's father, the late Martin Gilbert, and how much I loved and admired him. He was MCB's Secretary of Rural Church Work when I moved to Jackson. He literally glowed with happiness and friendliness. I thought of Mrs. Ray's mother, and remembered with sadness that Mrs. Gilbert had died only the week before. She was my good friend, too, and I had seen her often at WMU conventions, especially at the luncheons for parents of mis-

sionaries. I first met Mrs. Ray's brother, James, when he was pastor at Clara around 1954 or 1955. Nelda Trigg (Franks) was Brother Gilbert's secretary and later Dr. Quarles' secretary. On an Easter Sunday she and I went to her hometown and visited Clara Church. Now James and his wife are missionaries to Ecuador. I have met John L., former pastor of Westview Church, Jackson, who has returned to associational mission work in Louisiana. I don't believe I have met J. T., the Jackson physical therapist, but I expect he is special, too, as are all the rest of the



Carolyn Weatherford, executive director, WMU, SBC, and Calvin Isaac, Chief, Mississippi Choctaw Nation, brought major addresses at the WMU Convention.



James Richardson, pastor at First, Leland, delivered the closing address, "Standing Strong in World Missions." James and Zelma Foster, missionaries, in conversation with Charles Whitten of Spain, told about their work in the Philippines.



Marjean Patterson, executive secretary, Mississippi WMU, addressed the convention on Wednesday morning on the subject, "The Next Hundred Years in Mississippi WMU."



Nan Grantham, music assistant, Broadmoor Church, Jackson, led the music at the convention. Live orchids decorated the platform.



R. T. Buckley spoke on "Standing Strong in Bangladesh." He was one of several furloughing missionaries on program.



Mary Joe Stewart, missionary to Ecuador, gives her autograph to GAs during the party Tuesday evening.



Participants in a panel presentation on home missions included, left to right: David Myers, Chee Wu, Paul Vandercrook, Curtis Ferrell, and Martha Haggan.

## At The WMU Convention



Rosine Pernell, left, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, welcomes Mrs. Emmett Washburn, WMU member from Alabama, as a visitor to the WMU convention. Mrs. Pernell was one of many women of Lee Association who acted as hostesses or ushers or served on committees during the convention.

## Speakers Urge Strong Stand For Missions

(Continued from page 1)

crowd went to the little shack that was Christians' meeting place, and rocked it back and forth until the walls threatened to fall. The young man who had been baptized stood to pray, asking "Father, please help my family to understand. Please help me to stand strong in this time of trial."

Home missions was featured in the Tuesday afternoon session. Calvin Isaac, Chief of the Mississippi Choctaw Nation, presented his Christian testimony and told of the influence of home missions on his life.

"It is not what I say, but what I do in my daily life that will show others that I am a Christian," Isaac said. A nationally known educator and humanitarian, Isaac is also pianist for the Canaan Baptist Church near Philadelphia. His father was for many years before his death a Baptist pastor. The chief said, "I know that if my father were here, he would like to say, 'Thank you for your mission work with the Choctaws.'"

Rodney Webb of the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and men in the state whose work is jointly sponsored by home and state missions took part in a panel presentation. Those included were Curtis Ferrell, who works with the Spanish-speaking in Jackson; Dolton Haggan, missionary with the Choctaws; David Myers, Jackson, Christian social ministries; Frank Ruiz, worker with Mexicans in the Delta; Paul Vandercrook, who works with seamen on the Coast; and Chee Wu, Chinese missionary, Cleveland.

Tuesday night was youth night and GAs, Acteens, and Baptist Young Women were featured guests. At least 1,000 women, men and young people were present. Talitha Edwards, Acteen, was the main speaker and expressed appreciation for the influence that missionary organizations have had on her life.

Music was led by Mrs. Nan Grantham, music assistant, Broadmoor Church, Jackson.

The concluding feature of each session was a dramatic monologue on the life of one of the former presidents of Mississippi WMU. These monologues were given by Jan Cossitt, activities director, Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton. This historic emphasis is leading up to next year's celebration of Mississippi WMU's Centennial.

Marjean Patterson, executive secretary, Mississippi WMU, spoke Wed-

nesday morning on "The Next Hundred Years in Mississippi WMU." She said, "I have no way to tell what will happen in the next 100 years in Woman's Missionary Union. I do know that faith in God led women into the organization of the work and has sustained them in it for nearly 100 years, and I think the same will be true of the next 100."

As she discussed goals for the future she observed, "If we are going to disseminate the gospel to the ends of the earth we are going to have to do some creative thinking."

She said that she foresees the day when we will regularly talk to (and see) missionaries by phone anywhere in the world. It won't be long, she continued, until television tapes will be sent out from the Baptist Building for use in the churches. Also she thinks that in the future more WMU leaders will be taking overseas mission trips.

"One goal of Bold Mission Thrust," Miss Patterson said, "is to have at least one person from every church to become a mission volunteer."

James Richardson, pastor of First Church, Leland, delivered the closing address on "Standing Strong in World Missions." Richardson said, "God's program of world missions is overarching ours. There are 8,000 students in Southern Baptist seminaries, the largest group in seminaries of one denomination in the history of Christianity. . . Students in colleges and universities are interested in discussing what it means to be born again. . . Many people continue to stay where they are year after year after year, telling the good news of God's love. This is the kind of discipleship that is needed."

Richardson, a member of the Foreign Mission Board, related some of the experiences that new missionaries have told in appointment services he has attended.

Next year's WMU Convention will meet in March at First Church, Jackson.

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Thursday, March 31, 1977

## Historical Meeting Is To View History In Media And Art Forms



**SPEAKERS ON BAPTIST HISTORY** — Speakers for the joint meeting of the SBC Historical Commission and the Southern Baptist Historical Society, April 19-20, in Nashville, Tennessee, include (top row) J. Gordon Kingsley, Jr., Andrew B. Rawls, J. D. Grey, (bottom row) Erwin M. Hearne, Jr., Bob Thornton, and Robert J. Hastings.

NASHVILLE — "Communicating Baptist History Through Contemporary Media and Art Forms" is the theme of the 1977 joint meeting of the Historical Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Southern Baptist Historical Society. The meeting will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, at the Baptist Sunday School Board Building, April 19-20.

Speakers and their topics include "Communicating Baptist History Through Contemporary Media and Art Forms," J. Gordon Kingsley, Jr., dean and professor English, William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri; "Teaching Baptist History with Audio-Visuals," Andrew B. Rawls, audio-visual librarian, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky; "The Artist Illustrating Baptist History," Erwin M. Hearne, Jr., commercial artist, Dallas, Texas.

Also included are "Communicating History Through Television, Video Tape, and Films," Bob Thornton, assistant vice president, television production, Radio and Television Commission, SBC, Dallas, Texas; "Communicating History Through Baptist Newspapers," Robert J. Hastings, editor, Illinois Baptist, Springfield, Illinois.

Stan Rushing, pastor, First Church, Newport, Tennessee, will speak on "A Case for Art in Baptist Histori-

raphy." Richard D. Patton, pastor, First Baptist Church, Portland, Tennessee, will speak on "Methods for Proclaiming Baptist History in the Local Church," and Donald J. Burke, pastor, Highland Baptist Church, Louisville, Kentucky, will speak on "Heritage Windows."

A special program feature will be the presentation of "Stearns and Co.," a historical musical drama, by the youth choir, First Church, Nashville, Tennessee — David Ford, director.

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"Contemporary media and art forms provide creative outlets for sharing Baptist history in churches and other settings," said Lynn E. May, Jr., executive director of the Historical Commission.

In addition, J. D. Grey, former SBC president and pastor emeritus, First Baptist Church, New Orleans, Louisiana, will address the annual fellowship luncheon, and Sidney Hudson-Reed, pastor, Rosebank

Jesus said to his church: "Greater works than these shall ye do." He was referring to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit among his disciples, which would enable them to carry on with increasing reach and heightened power in the redemptive ministry of Christ. The Cooperative Program is a splendid fulfillment of this promise. It allows for the diversities of gifts and provides unity of work and achievement. I personally find great satisfaction in doing the "greater works" through the Cooperative Program.

H. Franklin Paschall.

Union Church, Johannesburg, South Africa, will speak on "Historical Perspectives on Baptist Work in South Africa."

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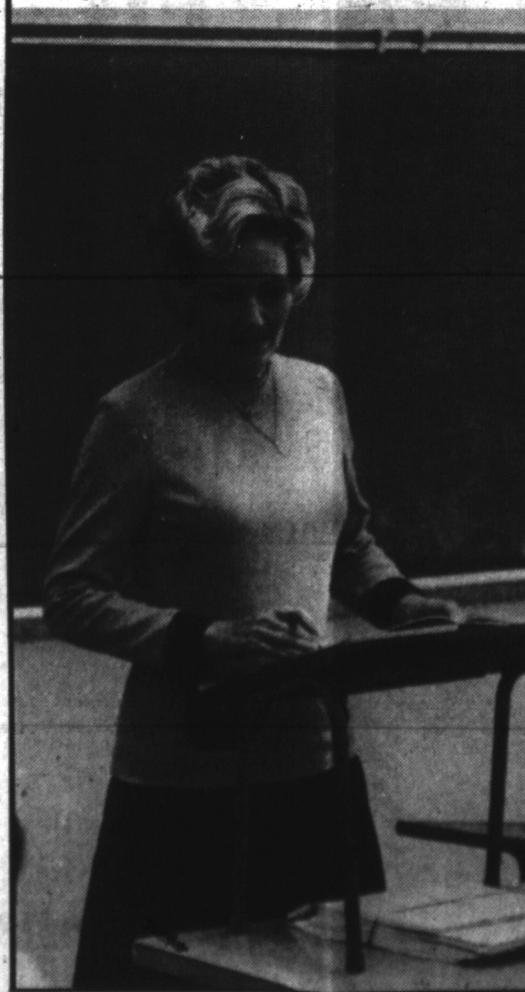
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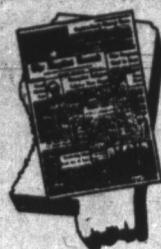
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## Just For The Record

A seminar on the usefulness of professional-quality puppets as effective instructional tools is scheduled at the State Boulevard Church, Meridian, on Tuesday, April 5, 1977, from 6:30-10:00 p.m. The three and one-half hour training session will be conducted by professional puppeteers from Puppet Productions, Inc. (PPI), a San Diego, California company that has trained more than 35,000 persons in similar sessions. To demonstrate the effectiveness of puppetry as a communications tool, video tape, film, and live performances will be used. Included among the live demonstrations will be the instruction of an entirely new and exciting puppet form...the larger than life hand puppet complete with full body and legs. Fluorescent puppets and black lighting will also be used in a dramatic visual display.

Subject areas covered in the seminar include how to manipulate hand puppets, organizing a church puppet ministry, the use of instructional puppetry for schools, giving puppets genuine "personality" on stage, and tips for working on T.V.

Seminar sizes are limited to insure adequate personal attention so early registration is recommended. Indi-

vidual registration fees are \$15 with reduced rates available for groups. For additional details and registration information, contact Toby Rowell, Minister of Education and Activities, at (601) 485-5658.



Mrs. Louise Dobbs, WMU director, and Lamar Crocker, pastor, Pleasant Ridge Church (Chickasaw) exhibit the climax of the church family Home Missions emphasis. The proposed church goal \$350.00 which was reached and surpassed by gifts of \$444.00



### Our Church . . .

### . . . And The Cooperative Program

By Barry Landrum, Pastor,  
First, Greenville

God has established certain immutable laws that govern His creation, and to act contrary to them is to act foolishly and even court disaster. This also holds true for His laws governing the Christian life.

God's law of giving and receiving is that He gives to us so that we may share, so that He may give more so that we may share more, so that He... For as we freely share it releases His immutable law to work in and through us for His purpose and our abundant life. "Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over..." Lk. 6:38 (more - that we may share more that...) Is this not what Mal. 3:10 says? SHARE... GIVE TO GOD'S CAUSES... and I will pour you out a blessing, even more than you can take in... What are we to do with the overflow? God surely never wastes anything. (. . . that you may give more so that He...)

We believe this law applies to churches as well as individuals, and

### McDowell Road Kindergarten

### Registration To Be April 5

Registration and Open House will be held April 5, at 1020 McDowell Road Church, Jackson, for the fall term of kindergarten. The hours for registration are from 8:30 a.m. through 10:30 a.m.

The four-year-olds must be four before October 1, 1977. The five-year-olds must be five before November 1, 1977. A three-year program will be offered three days a week. The kindergarten hours are from 8:30-11:30. Day care facilities are available for children through five years of age all day.

For further information about the day care or kindergarten you may contact the director, Mrs. Gussie Ashley, 372-1581.

### White Dies

(Continued from page 1)

White's beloved Baylor, which presented him with its elite Founders Medal in 1972, was the major arena for his educational leadership. He was chancellor there for two years before being named president emeritus in 1963.

Other leadership posts held by White included serving as president of Hardin-Simmons University, 1940-43, editorial secretary, SBC Sunday School Board, 1943-45, chairman of the board of trustees for Bishop College in Dallas, 1942-45, president of Texas Baptists, and president of the SBC Foreign Mission Board.

His service to Bishop College was part of the reason he received the Baptist General Convention of Texas "Distinguished Service Award" in 1976. The award noted his contributions to the Southern Baptist Convention Christian Life Commission and to race relations and education. Texas Baptist also named White as Texas' Baptist Elder Statesman in 1968. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Odeira White of Waco. The family asked memorial gifts to Baylor in lieu of flowers.

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## Zion Hill Gives Reception To Couple Married For 67 Years



The Jernigans

four still living — Mrs. Gladys Carroll, Eugene Jernigan, Mrs. Vernon Wilkinson, and Miss Frankie Jernigan. They have five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Cecil Brasell, Jr. is pastor of the Zion Hill Church.

**BANGKOK, Thailand** —Larry Brown, chairman of the board of deacons at Calvary Baptist Church here and head comptroller for Esso gasoline in Thailand, gave an unusual Christmas present to the 200 employees working under him this year. He gave each of them a New Testament with an accompanying letter explaining that the story of Christmas was in the book. He even gave them page numbers where they could find it and encouraged them to read about the birth of Christ to learn why Christmas is celebrated.

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Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Cooper and their three children of Meridian together have 48 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. They are shown receiving pins from their director, Wayne Carlisle. Sheila and Dennis received eleven-year pins, Cooper and Gary received nine-year pins and Mrs. Cooper received an eight-year pin. W. Buford Usry is their pastor at Westwood Church in Meridian.

## Names In The News

**Leon Champion**, a former Mississippi pastor, has been selected to appear in the second edition of

**WHO'S WHO IN RELIGION**. He pastored in Mississippi for eleven years. Since March of 1974, he has been serving in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. He is a graduate of

Clarke College, William Carey College, and New Orleans Seminary. He is married to Jean Orso of Mobile, Al. They have four daughters.

**Craigie and Ellen Steele**, missionaries to Brazil, may be addressed at Caixa 1854, 90000 Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. Both are natives of North Carolina. They lived for a time in Mississippi.

**William L. Latham**, father of Dorothy Latham, missionary to Brazil, died March 4. Miss Latham may be addressed at Caixa 226, 69000 Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil.

**John and Nell Smith**, missionaries to Indonesia, may be addressed at Jl. Jend Sudirman 39, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Both are natives of Brookhaven.

**David R. Grant**, pastor of Broadmoor Church, Jackson, has been named to the national alumni steering committee for the \$10 million dollar endowment and capital funds campaign of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky. Grant is chairman of the seminary's campaign effort in Mississippi.



**New Zion (Scott)** has called

**Paul Hill** as pastor. Hill was ordained by Pittsboro Church after accepting the call. He and his wife, the former Norma Thompson of Eupora, now live in Newton where he is a student at Clarke College.

**J. D. and Ethel Batson**, mis-

**Barney Thamas**, 79, pastor of Pecan Heights church, Dallas, died Feb. 21 after a long illness. He was born in Collins, Miss., and was pastor of churches in Oklahoma and Kansas before going to Dallas. He had pastored the Pecan Heights church for 24 years. Thamas was known for his practice of giving away dimes while witnessing, and the high percentage of missions giving at his church. He and Mrs. Thamas were former employees of the Baptist Standard.

**Jerry and Linda (Ashley) Glass** have adopted someone special. Brian Justin arrived home on March 6, age 6 months, weight 17 pounds and 10 ounces. Lynda worked in the state WMU department, and she and Jerry now live at 6512 Beechwood Drive, Camp Springs, Maryland 20031.

**Larry Pittman**, formerly minister of music - youth at Eastlawn Church, Pascagoula, has accepted the call as minister of music - youth at Calvary Church, Greenville. Pittman is a graduate of William Carey. Before entering church music he taught music education and special education in the Pascagoula Public Schools. He served First Church in New Smyrna, Florida before going to Eastlawn. He is married to the former Cathy Watson of Pascagoula who also attended William Carey.

**Mike Catt** is now serving First Church, Yukon, Oklahoma, as fulltime minister of youth education. Catt has served as a minister of youth in Mississippi, Florida, Missouri, and now Oklahoma. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and has attended Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City. He is a native of Pascagoula. He will continue his master's work at Southwestern Seminary extension campus in Oklahoma City. The pastor of First Church of Yukon is Charles W. Draper.

**He who decides a case without hearing the other side, through he decide justly, cannot be considered just.** — Seneca

## Sunday School Lesson: Life And Work For April 3

# The Penitent Thief

By Bill Duncan, First, Long Beach  
Luke 23:32-46

One of the saddest spectacles about Jesus' crucifixion was the conduct of those around the cross. Rather than sitting in reverent, sympathetic silence, the people around the cross were as wild animals crying and taunting the Son of God. Even the dignified rulers joined in the disgraceful scene. They even challenged Jesus to come down from the cross.

There were two thieves crucified on either side of Jesus who joined in the insulting cries of the mob. Finally, one of the thieves "railed" or blasphemed Jesus saying, "If thou be the Christ, save thyself and us" (v. 39). The "if" clause calls for an affirmative answer. He assumed that Jesus was the Christ. "Save thyself and us" calls for salvation from the death of the cross. This thief had no sense of repentance and faith unto spiritual salvation. He wanted to be saved from his suffering and predicament.

One of the thieves suddenly ceased to rail upon Jesus and began to pray. He rebuked the other thief, declaring that they were dying justly but that Jesus was dying innocently. Then he prayed, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your Kingdom" (NASV). He did not ask to be delivered from the death of the cross. He prayed for salvation from sin. Jesus answered by saying, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise" (v. 43). The thief asked for remembrance and received fellowship. He received the promise of fellowship that very day. He walked with Jesus through the gates of glory.

The penitent thief may have been a revolutionist, who had fought against Rome. It is no accident that the rulers wanted him killed beside Jesus. One writer has suggested that he knew before the day of execution. He addressed Jesus by the name Mary had called him by, the name that Mary called him when he was a boy in Nazareth. No other person, as far as we know, addressed our Lord in that fashion. Clovis G. Chappell has suggested that the revolutionist might have called him Jesus because he knew so little. But he trusted him enough to pray to him.

Why did he pray such a prayer? This man realized his condition. He had a vision of reality. He realized that Jesus was God's Son. He realized that he was a sinner. No man ever comes to Jesus for salvation until he sees himself in his sinful, lost condition. This man realized his helplessness. All men must realize how helpless they are to save themselves. All he could do was call upon Jesus Christ. Romans 10:13 says, "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This prayer was personal. The dying man was praying for himself. The answer was addressed to a single individual. Our Lord spoke to this man as if he were the only being in the world.

This was a prayer of faith. He did not think of Jesus as having earthly duties, but he was convinced that to have a place in his heart, to be remembered by him, was the very best that could be his either in time or in eternity. He asked for no throne, no seat among the mighty, only to be remembered.

The answer given by Jesus was one of assurance. Our Lord gave to this dying man assurances that are as pre-

cious to us as they were to the man to whom Jesus first gave them long ago.

1. There was the assurance that life goes on. He said to his outlaw, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." As death cannot stop me, no more can it stop you. He even said, "I will always be; you will always be you."

2. There was the assurance that gave an abiding fellowship with himself. Because the thief had been forgiven, relationship had been established and fellowship restored. They will go on being together through time and eternity.

3. There was the assurance of a heavenly home. The meeting place would be a paradise. He had called heaven a house of many mansions to his disciples. This was to assure us that life would be better with him in eternity.

4. There was the assurance of the immediacy of our heavenly home. The belief that we fall asleep to wake up on some far-off resurrection was not the faith or the shout of Jesus. "Today, thou shalt be with me." "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." This is the faith of the saints.



## New Church Goes Up Near Tupelo

Groundbreaking for Grace Memorial Church, Highway 78, east of Skyline, Tupelo, took place recently. Holding the shovels are, left to right: John Brown, Joe Holcomb, pastor, Ricky White, Billy Jarvis, and John Whitten. Services have been held since September 12, 1976 in the parsonage next to the new church. Grace Memorial Church was organized October 10, 1976 with 24 charter members. By-laws were adopted, and Joe Holcomb was called as pastor. The recently incorporated church will be a member of the Lee County Association. Membership now totals 95. It is hoped that new church building will be completed by the first week in June.

## Revival Dates

**West Ellisville Church**, Ellisville: spring revival; March 30 - April 3; 7 p.m.; Billy R. Thomas, pastor, Emmanuel Church, Natchez, evangelist; Gordon Alford, minister of music, Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale; Tom McCurley, pastor.

**Bethel Church**, Monticello: April 3-8; Gerald Buckley, pastor of Parkway, Natchez, evangelist; Sunday at 10 a.m. with Sunday School, 11 a.m. worship service, dinner on the ground, and an afternoon service; weekly night services at 7:30 p.m. Sherrod Rayborn, music director at Bethel in charge of the music; Ken Marler, pastor.

**Barefoot Springs (Rankin)**: April 1-3; W. E. Bass, pastor of Line Creek, evangelist; William K. Thompson, pastor; Randy Thompson, song director; Sharon Ivy, pianist; services at 7 each night and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

**Jupiter Church (Simpson)**: April 6-8; R. G. (Bob) Stewart, recently called pastor, evangelist; J. L. Blair, singer; services at 7 p.m.

**Indian Springs Church**, Laurel: April 3-8; J. C. Renfroe of Pearl, Rankin, Director of Associational Missions, evangelist; Wayne Meeks, minister of music at Wildwood Church, Laurel, guest musician; Mrs. Melvin Smith, organist; Mrs. Garry D. Meador, pianist; Wade Allen, pastor.

**Plainway, Laurel**: April 3-8; Wayne L. DuBose, Orchard Church, Mobile, evangelist; Mike Daugherty of Plainway, singer; services Mon.-Fri. at 7 p.m.; Sunday services at regular times, with homecoming and dinner on the ground; (Sunday, April 3, is the 27th anniversary of Harold C. Ishee as pastor of Plainway Church.)

**Byram, Jackson**: April 3-10; James P. Gilbert, Ecuador missionary, evangelist; Johnny Presley and Dale Owens, musicians; services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday and 7:30 p.m. weekdays; Henry Bennett, pastor.

**Big Ridge, Biloxi**: April 8-10, youth led revival; Steve Hooker, evangelist; Max Julian, music director; Robert M. Carlisle, pastor.

**New Palestine, Picayune**: April 3-8 at 7:30 p.m.; Grady Collins, pastor Trinity, Philadelphia, evangelist; Ken Barlow music director; Harry Barnes, pastor.

**He who decides a case without hearing the other side, through he decide justly, cannot be considered just.** — Seneca

**Oak Grove, Meridian (Bonita)**: March 27 - April 1; Ralph N. Kelly, pastor, Greens Creek, Petal, evangelist; Pat Tidmore, Magnolia Street, Laurel, guest musician; Ernest Rockwell, pastor; services at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. weekdays.

**Pleasant Grove near Booneville**: March 30 - April 3; Doyle Ferrell, pastor, preaching; Paul Reed, music director at East Booneville, guest musician; night services at 7:30; Sunday at 11 and 7:30.

**Orange Grove, First Church, Pasca-**

**goula**: April 3-8; Robby Howard,

**Grand Bay, Ala.**, evangelist; Grady Mayo, minister of music, in charge of

music; H. L. Davis, pastor; services 7 p.m. Sun. - Fri.; (Homecoming to be Sunday, April 3, with Bill Barton, Home of Grace, Pascagoula, speaker for the 11 a.m. service; dinner on the ground at 12; Joyful Noise Singers from Hattiesburg to sing at morning and afternoon services; Glory Road Singers from Moss Point also to sing in afternoon service that begins at 1:45 p.m.)

**First, Summit**: April 3-8; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekdays 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Tom Wilks, First Church, Charleston, Mo., evangelist; Randy Grim, Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, music evangelist; Larry W. Fields, pastor.

## Devotional

## Life's Compulsions

By Bobby C. Perry, Pastor, First, Moss Point

A wise old teacher of my college days used to tell his students that it was essential to know three things about life: (1) Where you are. (2) Where you are going. (3) How to get there. We can appreciate the practical wisdom in this advice when we look around us and see how many people never take their own bearings. They don't know where they are. They are confused and deceived about themselves. They observe the other fellow's situation but not their own. They have some good idea of how far off the track their friends might be without realizing the wilderness where they themselves are. It is good to take account of ourselves once in awhile although the experience might be somewhat painful. All of us have a tendency to wander off and get out of step with life. We become prisoners of our habits instead of crusaders for our ideas. We become chained to our habits of life so that we walk in a prison yard of what we are and never get out into the open country of what we can be.

There is a compulsion connected with life's destinations which no one can avoid. Even the Son of God was bound by this fact of life.

Jesus, we are told, when He had fixed the destination of His life which was to be realized upon His arrival in Jerusalem, had to go through Samaria. He had no choice if He wanted to get from where He was in Galilee to His Jerusalem in Judea. Samaria was a "must" for Him. His disciples didn't think the goal was worth the cost but Jesus did. And so He wasted no energy resisting what He had to do. If we could harness all of the energies expended by people protesting the inevitable, we could greatly improve every phase of human life, including the life within each of us.

Jesus recognized the reality of the word "must," and He accepted its demands upon His life. When He had something to do He did it. He never fussed nor delayed nor alibied. Often He said, "I must" and that very admission helped Him to endure whatever the compulsion might be.

It is evident that we have not grown up where we refuse to face the compulsions in our lives. A strong person might succeed in the assertion that "nobody can make me," but he can't get any of the good things in life unless he bows to the necessity of meeting the requirements where he wants to or not. Health is one of the ways of compulsion. Skill has its inescapable requirements. Character grows only out of the soil of inviolate laws.

Life's compulsions are not intrusions. They have not developed as the result of our imperfect society. We can never rid ourselves of them if we want to get where we are to where we want to be. They are essential to life at its best.

Whatever your "Samaria" may be you can be advised no more wisely than to deal with it as Jesus did. Accept it as a "must." Endure it as a means. Improve it where you can. Use it for the best and God's glory.

## Methodist Named Brotherhood

## Commission Business Director

**MEMPHIS (BP)** — Lynette Oliver, comptroller of Orgill Brothers and Company, a wholesale hardware firm here, for 20 years, has been named director of the business section of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission here. She is a Methodist.

In the new position, Oliver leads in preparing and administering the commission's budget and directs such operations as accounting, purchasing, office personnel coordination, insurance, building and properties.

At the wholesale hardware firm, she was responsible for preparation and control of a \$60 million budget, employment and termination of 600 employees, insurance, pensions, purchasing and inventory.

Oliver was a public accountant in an auditing firm for 13 years before joining Orgill Brothers. She's a graduate of Mid-South Institute of Accounting and attended the University of Tennessee and Memphis College of Accounting.

A Texan arrived in Niagara Falls in the evening and did a lot of bragging before he retired. Next morning they showed him the Falls and said, "You haven't seen anything like that in Texas, have you?"

"No," admitted the Texan. "But we've got a plumber in Houston who could stop that leak in ten minutes."

"Would you like your coffee black?"

"What other colors do you have?"

## Sunday School Lesson: International For April 3

## Jesus Offers Himself

By Wm. J. Fallis

Mark 11:1-11; 14:1 to 15:41

The people whom Jesus healed, the children he blessed, the disciples he won—they never dreamed that the young rabbi would be executed in Jerusalem. The gentle way he treated those in trouble, the authority in his clear voice, his fresh and fascinating style of teaching—how could such a person be rejected by the religious leaders? But from the time Jesus took his text from Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth he was on a collision course with those in power.

They resented his popularity and feared his uncluttered relationship with God. His love and openness threatened their control of religious patterns and political power. But Jesus' ministry could not go on without his confronting those "enemies." So he offered himself.

**The Lesson Explained**  
**As Unexpected Messiah**  
**(Mark 11:7-16)**

So far as the Gospel of Mark is concerned, this trip to Jerusalem began in 10:32, where Jesus is described as walking ahead of his followers, some of whom were amazed and others were afraid. Jesus told the disciples what he expected to happen in Jerusalem. When they were only a short distance from the city, Jesus sent two disciples to borrow a colt, evidently from a friend unknown to the disciples.

When they returned with the animal

which no one had ever ridden, they made a pad with their garments and Jesus sat on it. As the procession went on toward the city, many people spread their garments and tree branches in the road. When we read Zechariah 9:9-10, we see this as a dramatized parable, because Jesus was offering himself as a king on a colt. He was not the kind of Messiah King the people had been hoping for to overthrow their enemies. He was coming as God's servant, a man of peace and compassion. But the crowd responded joyously, probably chanting antiphonally the line from Psalm 118:26 and the words of verse 10. It was an appropriate and happy occasion although the people did not know the deeper meaning of their actions.

**As Willing Son Of The Father**  
**(Mark 14:32-36)**

As Jesus had expected, his approach to worship, to the religious establishment, and to the reality of faith in God antagonized the authorities (14:1). He sensed treachery on the part of one of his disciples (14:10,18). After eating the Passover, he and the others walked to the Mount of Olives and paused in the garden of Gethsemane, or the "place of the oil press."

Evidently dreading what was about to happen, Jesus asked eight of the disciples to rest while he prayed. Then he took his closest friends in the group and went apart, and suddenly he was overwhelmed by distress and anguish, saying, "My heart is ready to break with grief!" (NEBB). When he had walked a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that he could be spared the ordeal to come. Eventually he ended his prayer with sincere